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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Levant States/Trans-Jordan/Iraq

DATE: 25X1X6

INFO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT Greater Syria Plan

DIST. 4 February 1947

PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT

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ORIGIN

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1. It has been reported, as of 20 September 1946, that Deputy Rushdi Kikhya of Aleppo has been putting out strong propaganda in Aleppo, Harim, Idlib, Jisr al-Shugur, and among Beduin tribes, in favor of the Greater Syria plan.
2. Upon the arrival of the Trans-Jordanian Minister to Lebanon, Muhammad Ali al-Ajluni, on 1 October 1946, Kikhya came to Beirut to pay his respects, and he assured Ajluni of his support for King Abdallah.
3. On 23 September, Ajluni went to Damascus and visited Nasuh Babil, owner of al-Ayyam newspaper. Muhammad Sa'id 'Ubayd, merchant and pro-Hashimite leader, entertained Ajluni at lunch with some 15 other guests. As the meal ended, Mustafa al-Baba, Inspector of the Syrian Surete, arrived with police officers and gave 'Ubayd the choice of breaking up the "illegal" meeting or of going to jail, whereupon 'Ubayd sent his guests away.
4. On the day preceding the luncheon, a meeting was reported at the home of Khalid al-'Azam (then Minister of National Economy and Justice), which was attended by Sa'dallah al-Jabri (Prime Minister of Syria at that date), journalists, deputies, and other important people. Al-Jabri is said to have violently attacked King Abdallah and to have called on all present to crush Abdallah's propaganda campaign in Syria.
5. Jamil al-Madfa'i, former Prime Minister of Iraq, who was in Beirut on 22 October, is opposed to King Abdallah, and stated while in Lebanon that Lebanon and Syria were more independent than any other Arab countries, and that they should resist the Greater Syria program to the end.
6. Sami Bey Kayyali, Secretary of the Municipality of Aleppo, was sent by Sa'dallah al-Jabri to Lebanon to work against Greater Syria (reported on 26 October).
7. Al-Jabri gave him letters to the Mufti of Lebanon, Muhammad Tawfiq Khalid, as well as to Sheikh Muhyi al-Din Makkawi, and he is reported to have seen them both. Kayyali told them not to be misled by King Abdallah and his Damascus advocate, Hasan Bey al-Hakim.

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25X1X6 [REDACTED] of the following information has well-established contacts in official Trans-Jordan circles. The report is dated [REDACTED]

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CLASSIFICATION

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 13 October 1965 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist, National Archives and Records Administration.

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8. Samir Pasha Rifa'i, former Prime Minister of Trans-Jordan, and Haydar Bey Shukri, Director of the Ottoman Bank in Amman, have on several occasions mentioned the desirability of the Greater Syria plan.
9. Samir Pasha has stated that, at present, Lebanon is being left out of the plan, as she is the strongest opponent to the movement. However, Samir Pasha felt certain that, once Greater Syria was formed, Lebanon would ask to be admitted.
10. On 2 November, Samir Pasha Rifa'i and Haydar Bey Shukri arrived in Beirut, presumably on business. While in Beirut, however, both visitors were extremely busy meeting old friends and political leaders. It was during this visit that Samir Pasha made a statement to the press in favor of the Greater Syria plan.
11. In regard to his press statement, Samir Pasha stated to 25X1X6 that his remarks published in the papers about the Greater Syria movement not applying to Lebanon were "mere eye-wash"; that by leaving Lebanon out of consideration, she would ask to be taken in. - 25X1X6
12. 25X1X6 under cover of a business visit, Samir Pasha made the trip to Beirut especially to put the Greater Syria plan to the test, previous to the meeting of the Arab League.

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